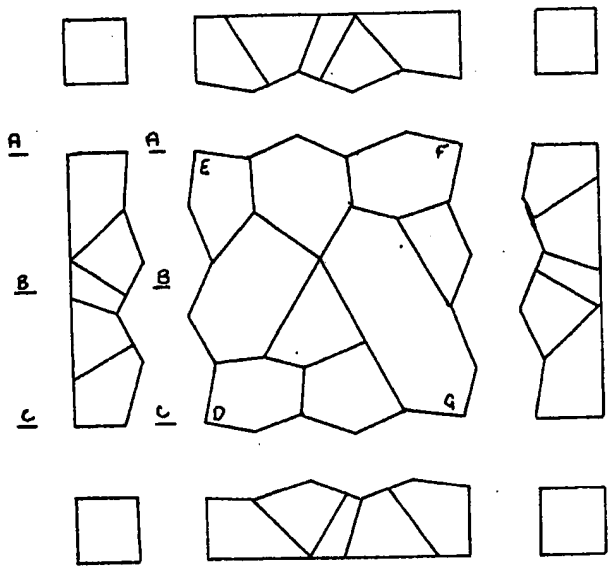

Fig 1

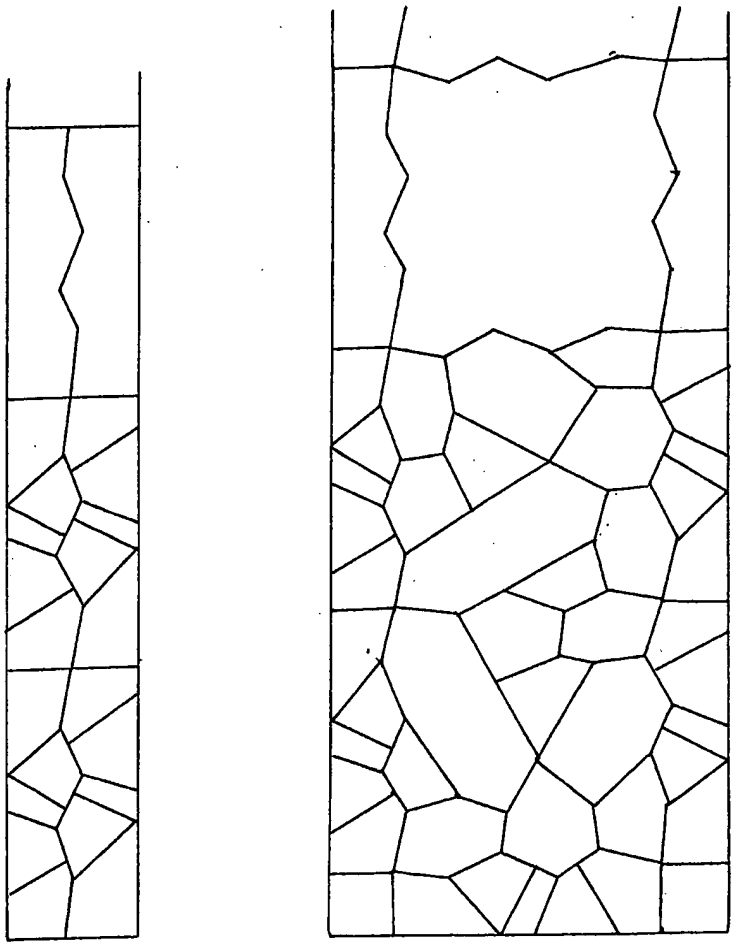

Fig 2

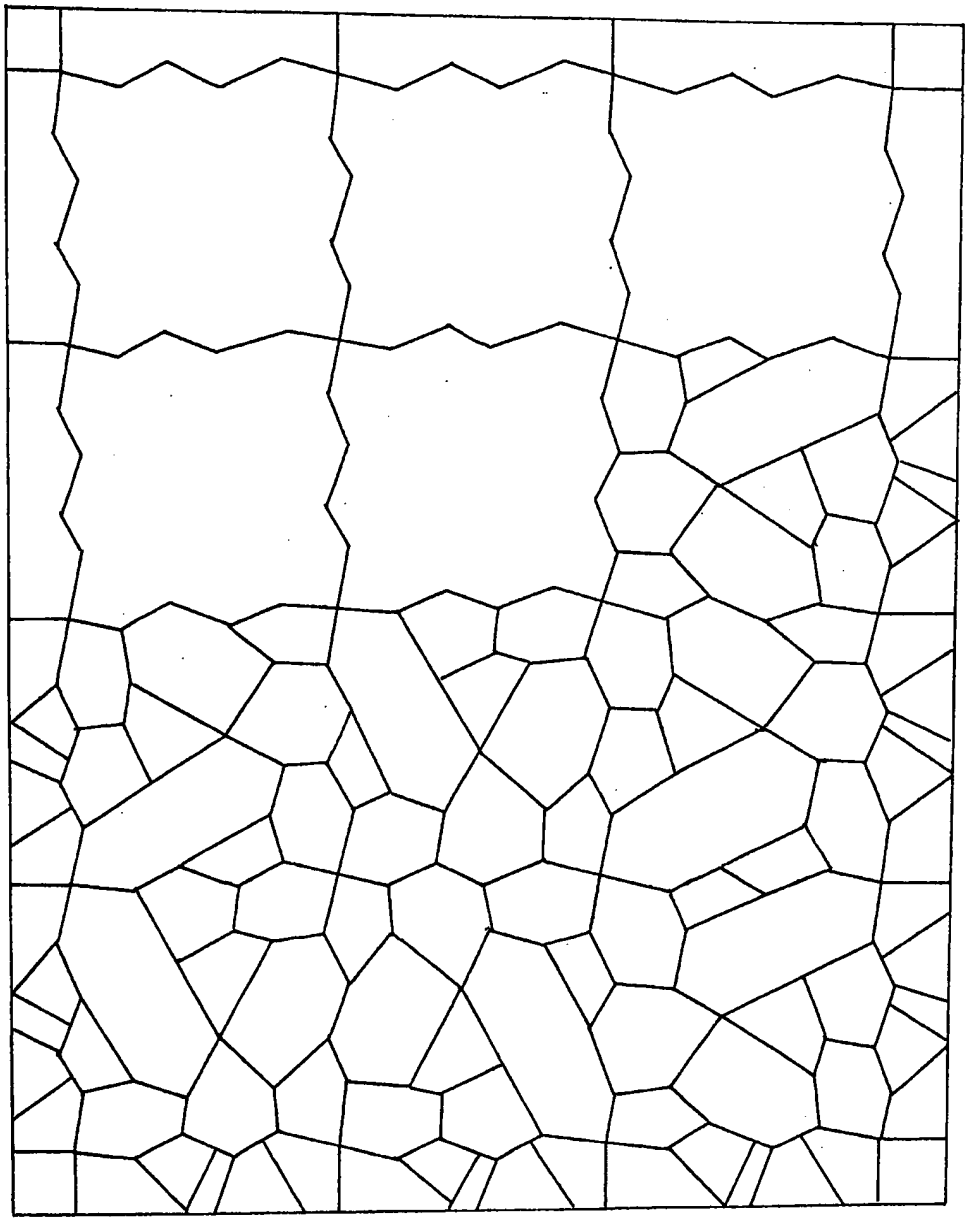

Fig 3

SPECIFICATION

Method of manufacturing paving slabs used to create a random 'crazy paving' effect

This invention relates to a method of manufacturing paving slabs used to create a random crazy paving effect.

In current practice, paving slabs are produced in regular geometric shapes. True crazy paving necessitates using random shapes normally obtained as a result of breakage of regular paving slabs or natural rock.

The desired effect is obtained by fitting the broken pieces to each other in some effective manner often using a mortar to fill the gaps.

If desired gaps are left in the mortar joints to permit the planting of rock plants.

To create an effective crazy paving effect using the above methods is a time consuming, wasteful occupation, which require the employment of someone skilled in the art to achieve a satisfactory result.

According to the present invention we provide a method of design and manufacture of a modular series of paving slabs which can be laid quickly and easily by semi-skilled labour and which automatically creates the desired effect of true crazy paving with no wastage of paving material.

Also according to the present invention the design allows for sufficient variations within the shape of the module as to permit an almost infinite variety of individual layouts within each modular variety.

In order that the invention may be easily understood a specific embodiment, by way of example only, will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1. Shows the essential basic modules of the system.

Fig. 2. Illustrates the use of the modules to create crazy paving paths.

Fig. 3. Illustrates the use of the modules to create a paved area.

With reference to Fig. 1, it can be seen that the system comprises infill sections, edge section and corner sections.

The constraints necessary to achieve the required effect are all applied to the edge section and the design of the other sections is produced from this section.

These constraints are as follows:—

Firstly, the widths of the module at either end (Section A.A. and C.C. Fig. 1) must be identical.

Secondly, the ends of this module must be at right angles to the straight edge.

Thirdly, the width at the centre of the module (Section B.B. Fig. 1) must equal the width of the ends (Section A.A. or C.C.).

Fourthly, the design of the first half of the random edge must be a mirror image of the second half.

i.e. Random edge from A.A. to B.B. is mirror image of random edge from B.B.—C.C. Fig. 1.

All other dimensions are a matter of choice to produce desired overall modular sizes.

To produce a length adjustment within the system different widths of this module can be produced provided they have an identical random edge, and the corner modules are designed to suit.

The infill module is now constrained only by the requirement that the edges of the module must fit the edge module in any direction as indicated on Fig. 1. Provided this constraint is applied the module which results has random edges which are parallel, and in which the random edge is repeated around the module.

i.e. (E.—F. is repeated F—G, G—D, D—E, Fig. 1).

Also the module can be laid in any direction.

i.e. Paving slabs forming edge D.E. could form any edge on the module and orientation be altered accordingly thus enhancing the random effect.

The corner modules must be rectangular to fit the edge modules and size is dictated by the width of the edge modules.

Should only one width of edge module be chosen the corners would be square.

But should the widths vary a series of rectangular stones would have to be produced to suit.

The layout of individual slabs within each module is a matter of choice and a variety of layouts can be produced to enhance the random nature of the system in use.

Fig. 2 shows the use of the modules to create a variety of paths of different widths and Fig. 3 shows the use of the modules to create a paved area.

For clarity only the same module design and layout has been used on these illustrations and the module infill has not been shown for every module.

Hence it can be seen from the above that by using a single series of modules but varying both the internal layout and the orientation as described, an infinite variety of individual paving effects can be achieved.

It can equally be seen by those involved in the manufacture of paving slabs that the system described can be manufactured using a number of simple moulds or presses of which the shape is only controlled by the small number of constraints as described.

It will also be obvious that the resulting modules can be easily laid by semi-skilled labour to create the desired effect of truly random crazy paving.

CLAIMS

1. A method of designing a modular system for manufacture of paving slabs which when laid create a truly random crazy paving effect.

2. A method as in Claim 1, in which the design